SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

[0011] FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the litter box system, assembled, with the door in an ~~open~~ closed position and in a right-handed orientation.

[0020] The enclosure 16 includes two primary parts: a housing 24 and a door 26. The housing 24 and door 26 are both preferably horizontally symmetrical so that the enclosure ~~14~~ 16 can be used in a left-handed orientation (see FIG. 3) or a right-handed orientation (see FIG. 4). This allows the system 10 to be accommodated in a wider variety of spaces.

[0022] Circular openings 66, 68 are preferably provided in the top and bottom surfaces 28, 30, respectively. The openings 66, 68 are centered about a vertical axis 60 and are parallel. The openings 66, 68 are provided to allow light to enter the chamber 18, to enhance air circulation and to serve as means to carry the litter box system 10. The opening 66 in the top surface 28 would perform this function when the enclosure ~~14~~ 16 is in the left-handed orientation and the opening 68 in the bottom surface 30 performs this function when the enclosure ~~14~~ 16 is in the right-handed orientation. A ridge 40, 42 is formed along the perimeter of each respective opening 66, 68. The ridges 40, 42 extend inwardly toward the chamber 18 and, as will be described in greater detail below, are used to engage the door 26.

[0024] The open shape of the slots 48, 50 allow the door 26 to be easily removed for cleaning. Alternatively, the slots 48, 50 could be replaced with circular openings (not shown) that are of the same shape, but slightly larger in size than the ridges 40, 42. This would provide a more secure connection between the door 26 and the housing 24. However, engaging and removing the door 26 from the housing 24 would require the upper and lower surfaces 44, 46 to be bend inwardly (away from the ridges 40, 42).

[0026] In order to access the container 12 and/or remove it for cleaning, the door 26 is rotated into an open position (see FIG. 2). In the open position, the opening 22 is much larger than when the door 26 is in the closed position. The wall 36 of the door 26 is preferably similar in shape to a portion 38 (see FIG. 1) of the wall 32 that borders the chamber 18. This allows the door 26 to nest inside the wall 32 when the door 26 is rotated into the open position (see FIG. 2). Optionally, a stop (not shown) could be included on the housing ~~26~~ 24 to prevent the wall 36 of the door 26 from rotating completely inside the housing ~~12~~ 24.

[0028] In order to reduce tracking of cat litter from the container 12 to the room in which the litter box system 10 is used, a ribbed surface 56 (see FIGS. 2 &3) is provided on the bottom surface 30 of the housing 24 in the entrance area 20. A second ribbed surface 57 (see FIG. 4) is provided on the top surface 28 in the entrance area 20 to reduce tracking when the enclosure ~~14~~ 16 is in the right-handed orientation. Other tactile and/or textured surfaces could also be used.

[0029] Optionally, a recessed area 54 could be included on the top surface 28 (see FIGS. 2 & 3), to provide a convenient location to set the container 12 when cleaning the litter contained therein (see FIG. 5). The recessed area 54 is preferably shaped to receive the base 15 of the container 12. In order to provide the same functionality when the enclosure ~~14~~ 16 is in the right-handed orientation, a similar recessed area 55 (see FIG. 4) is located on the bottom surface 30.